Claims 80-87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. More specifically, the Office Action rejects Claims 80-87 because the recitation "reproduction is not performed for a particular reproducible image. . . if the reproduction control section determines that the particular image to be reproduced is not recorded in the recording medium" is supposedly indefinite because it is unclear whether the particular reproducible image was stored in the recording medium. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, and solely to expedite prosecution, independent Claims 80, 86, and 87 have been amended to recite "wherein reproduction is not performed for a particular image specified by the reproduction instruction file if the particular image to be reproduced is not recorded in the recording medium."

By these amendments, Applicant submits that the claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 88-90, 92, and 93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,177,956 (Anderson '956). Claims 88-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,659 (Murata). Claim 91 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Anderson '956 and U.S. Patent No. 6,249,316 (Anderson '316). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The rejection of independent Claims 88, 92, and 93 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Anderson '956 should be withdrawn because Anderson '956 does not to teach at least the feature of indicating deletion of at least one of the plurality of reproducible images stored in the storage section.

Anderson '956 relates to a system and method for correlating processing data and image data in a digital camera. The Office Action, citing Column 9, lines 52-53 for support, takes the position that Anderson '956 teaches indicating deletion of at least one of the images stored in a storage section. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Anderson '956 teaches that raw image data is temporarily stored into a frame buffer 70 and a data cell manager builds a corresponding data cell 76, stored in working memory 72 within the camera DRAM. A first RAM spooler then transfers the raw image data into an individual image data file within a RAM disk in the camera DRAM. Then, the data cell manager makes a copy of the data cell and places the copy into the image data file stored in the RAM disk. A first flash spooler transfers the raw image data file from the RAM disk to a flash memory 64. Thus, the image data file stored in the flash memory includes therein a copy of the data cell. An image processor/compressor (IPC) 88 then accesses, processes and compresses the raw image data using the corresponding processing data stored in the data cell. After processing, the IPC deletes from the flash memory the raw image data file, which includes therein a copy of the data cell.

Applicants note that the cited section of Anderson '956 does not support the Office's position. In fact, the cited portion of Anderson '956 only teaches that the IPC deletes raw image data which includes a copy of the data cell. Further, Applicant submits that the Anderson '956 data cell being deleted does not even equate to the reproduction instruction file recited in independent Claims 88. 92, and 93. Indeed, absent from Anderson '956 is a teaching that each data cell has an instruction information including a plurality of file names specifying images to be reproduced. Rather, Anderson '956 only teaches that each data cell is uniquely associated with a particular image. (Col. 4, lines 52-55). For at least these reasons, Applicant

submits that Anderson '956 does not anticipate at least the aforesaid feature of independent Claims 88, 92, and 93.

The rejection of independent Claims 88, 92, and 93 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Murata should be withdrawn because Murata does not to teach at least the features of:

> controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated by said indication section to be deleted if instruction information corresponding to the at least one image is stored in the reproduction instruction file . . .(Claim 88); and
>
> a control step of controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated in said indication step to be deleted if image information corresponding to the at least one image is stored in the reproduction instruction file . . . (Claims 92 and 93).

Murata relates to a digital copier with an image scanner apparatus and offline image data and control data interface and teaches that image data and a print job command file are stored on a memory card installed in PC card slot 89. (Col. 6, lines 41-46). Murata also teaches that it is preferable that the copying machine comprise means for erasing output control data and image data stored in the storage medium. (Col. 3, lines 36-44). However, in stark contrast to the present invention as recited in independent Claims 88, 92, and 93, Murata does not teach either a control section for controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated by said indication section to be deleted if instruction information corresponding to the at least one image is stored in the reproduction instruction file (Claim 88) or a control step of controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated in said indication step to be deleted if image information corresponding to the at

least one image is stored in the reproduction instruction file (Claims 92 and 93). Thus, at least for this reason, Murata does not anticipate at least these features of independent Claims 88, 92, and 93.

Regarding Claim 91, which has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Anderson '316 relates to a method and system for creating a temporary group of images on a digital camera and is cited for its teaching of a display unit to display the image to be deleted. Applicant submits that Anderson '316 adds nothing to Anderson '956's teachings that would remedy the above-mentioned deficiencies. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 91 is also allowable over the cited art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 80, 86-88, 92, and 93 patentably define the present invention over the cited art. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION SHOWING CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

80. (Amended) An image reproduction control apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit using a recording medium, the recording medium storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images;

a reading section for reading the reproduction instruction file stored in the recording medium; and

a reproduction control section that controls reproduction of the reproducible images by reading the images [image] specified by the reproduction instruction file read by said reading section,

wherein reproduction is not performed for a particular [reproducible] image specified by the reproduction instruction file [of the at least one image to be reproduced] if the [said reproduction control section determines that the] particular image to be reproduced is not recorded in the recording medium, and

wherein if a next reproducible image is specified by the reproduction instruction file and said reproduction control section determines that the next reproducible image is recorded in the recording medium, the next reproducible image is reproduced.

83. (Amended) The image reproduction control apparatus of Claim 80, further comprising a display adapted and configured to display one of the images [at least one image] to be reproduced and the file name of the images [at least one image] to be reproduced specified by the reproduction instruction file, so as to allow a user to confirm the image to be reproduced specified by the reproduction instruction file.

84. (Amended) The image reproduction control apparatus of Claim 83, wherein said display displays the images [at least one image] to be reproduced specified by the reproduction instruction file.

85. (Amended) The image reproduction control apparatus of Claim 83, wherein said display displays the file names [name] of the images [at least one image] to be reproduced specified by the reproduction instruction file.

86. (Amended) A method of controlling image reproduction, the method comprising:

providing a storage unit using a recording medium, the recording medium storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images;

reading the reproduction instruction file stored in the recording medium; and

controlling reproduction of the reproducible images by reading the images [image] specified by the reproduction instruction file in said reading step,

wherein reproduction is not performed for a particular [reproducible] image specified by the reproduction instruction file [of the at least one image to be reproduced] if the [said reproduction control step determines that the] particular image to be reproduced is not recorded in the recording medium, and

wherein if a next reproducible image is specified by the reproduction instruction file and said reproduction controlling step determines that the next reproducible image is recorded in the recording medium, the next reproducible image is reproduced.

87. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing a method of controlling image reproduction, wherein the method comprises:

providing a storage unit using a recording medium, the recording medium storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images;

reading the reproduction instruction file stored in the recording medium; and

controlling reproduction of the reproducible images by reading the images [image] specified by the reproduction instruction file in said reading step,

wherein reproduction is not performed for a particular [reproducible] image specified by the reproduction instruction file [of the at least one image to be reproduced] if the [said reproduction control step determines that the] particular image to be reproduced is not recorded in the recording medium, and

wherein if a next reproducible image is specified by the reproduction instruction file and said reproduction controlling step determines that the next reproducible image is recorded in the recording medium, the next reproducible image is reproduced.

88. (Amended) A recording control apparatus for controlling recording of images in a recording medium, the apparatus including a storage section using at least the recoding medium for storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing instruction information including a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images, the apparatus comprising:

an indication section for indicating deletion of at least one of the plurality of reproducible images stored in the storage [recording] section; and

a control section for controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated by said indication section to be deleted if instruction information corresponding to the images [at least one image] is stored in the reproduction instruction file.

92. (Amended) A method of controlling recording of images in a recording medium, the method comprising:

providing a storage section using at least the recording medium for storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing instruction information including a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images;

an indication step of indicating deletion of at least one of the plurality of reproducible images stored in the storage section; and

a control step of controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated in said indication step to be deleted if image information corresponding to the images [at least one image] is stored in the reproduction instruction file.

93. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing a method of controlling recording of images in a recording medium, wherein the method comprises:

providing a storage section using at least the recording medium for storing a plurality of reproducible images and a reproduction instruction file containing instruction

information including a plurality of [at least one] file names [name] specifying images [at least one image] to be reproduced, the reproduction instruction file being separate from the plurality of images;

an indication step of indicating deletion of at least one of the plurality of reproducible images stored in the storage section; and

a control step of controlling deletion of the instruction information in the reproduction instruction file corresponding to the at least one image indicated in said indication step to be deleted if image information corresponding to the images [at least one image] is stored in the reproduction instruction file.

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